



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

# Legislative Report

June 3, 2015

Volume 25, Number 16

## 2015 Legislative Session

### In This Issue

[GOVERNANCE](#)

[NATURAL RESOURCES](#)

[SOCIAL POLICY](#)

[SOCIAL POLICY - Early  
Childhood Education](#)

**Printer-Friendly  
Version**

**Speaker of the  
House Tina Kotek  
imposes rule  
suspending 48 hour  
notice requirement  
for work sessions.  
Notice for public  
hearings is now 24  
hours.**

### Important UPDATE:

***Criminal Justice  
Commission Budget  
Passes Joint Ways &  
Means  
Subcommittee on  
Public Safety!***

***Read more in Karen's  
Social Policy report***

**HB 3470**

### Governance

#### **Wage Transparency, Ethics, CFR, Redistricting and More**

**HB 2007 is on the way for the Governor's signature.** Known as the wage transparency measure, it mandates that issues of wages must be available for discussion without retaliation. While the priority is having equal pay for equal work, that proposal did not pass this session. Opponents of **HB 2007** claimed it would be difficult for business to implement, and it passed on party lines. Supporters hail the importance of improving gender equity in the workplace.



*Kappy Eaton,  
Governance  
Coordinator*

Protocols for addressing sexual assault on all public and private Oregon colleges and universities campuses will become law with the passage of **SB 759 A**. The Governor is expected to sign this measure, which passed the Legislature with no dissents.

With a unanimous vote on **HB 2019**, the House moved reform of the Oregon State Ethics Commission to the Senate. Proposed by Governor Brown, the measure will add two members to the seven member commission, and expand the nominating authority of the Legislature. Looking to approve transparency and efficiency, the measure also calls for shorter times of complaint review and action.

Campaign finance reform issues are not in the forefront this session, but **HB 2178** is an important bill in the effort for more disclosure and transparency in Oregon election campaigns. First heard early in February, the bill finally is scheduled for a work session June 1 in the House Rules Committee. It would require that a finance statement be filed within

**ACTION ALERT**  
**UPDATE: Work**  
**Session on HB 3470**  
**Climate and Justice**  
**Act of 2015**

We need you to act now! to assist in achieving an affirmative vote on this Climate Stability and Justice Act - a Carbon Cap and Allocation Bill, HB 3470, in this session

[Click here to read LWVOR Action Alert.](#)

**OREGON DROUGHT**  
**Read OPB article**  
**on Governor Brown**  
**extending drought**  
**emergencies to eight**  
**counties (click here).**

**News on drought via**  
**Twitter.**

[#ordrought](#)

**PERS Oregon**  
**Supreme Court**  
**Decision impacts**  
**2017-2019 budget.**

[Click here to read more.](#)

**ACTION ALERT**  
**SB 680**

**National**  
**Popular**   
**Vote**

Your involvement is needed.  
 Senate Leadership is holding  
 up a vote on this bill.

[Read how you can help.](#)

two business days if the aggregate contribution amount equals or exceeds \$2500 from a single donor during the 14 day period immediately preceding an election.

[HB 2478](#) is the gender-equity measure for this session. Following the 2014 Oregon judicial barring of the denial of rights and responsibilities of marriage to same-gender couples, there is a need to upgrade Oregon statutes referring to marriage. [HB 2478](#) would revise these laws by replacing the phrase "husband and wife" with the words "spouses married to each other" throughout Oregon laws. The issues involved include real property, tax and estate, marriage civil rights, parental obligations, and dissolution of a marriage. Passed by the House, 38-17 on May 29, it is now before the Senate.

The Joint Tax Credits Committee received [HB 2171](#) from the House Rules Committee on June 1. This measure would eliminate the allowance of itemized deductions or the standard deduction from the federal adjusted gross income for Oregon personal income taxation. The committee is reviewing deductions and tax credits that lower General Fund revenue.

Workplace bills for sick leave and minimum wage are going in opposite directions. [SB 454](#) has undergone 39 proposed amendments and appears to now have a bi-partisan agreement to provide 40 hours of paid sick leave annually by employers with 10 or more workers. Those with fewer than 10 employees will offer 30 hours of unpaid sick leave per year. As the only cities in Oregon with adopted sick leave ordinances, Portland can continue its plan while Eugene is considering a three month pause in implementation to determine the state final outcome. The legislative proposal would go into effect January 1, 2016, and currently has been referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Minimum wage bills, most of which were proposing \$12 to \$15 phase-in increases, are now off the radar. Instead, attention is being given to the initiative effort for a \$15 per hour wage in 2016.

[SB 9 A](#), calling for a Performance Audit of the state's public agencies responses to public records requests and retention requirements, is awaiting action on the House floor after unanimous passage in the Senate.

We can now declare a minor victory with [HB 2974 B](#), is a redistricting procedures bill that requires hearings throughout the state, 10 hearings before and five hearings after, when proposing congressional or legislative reapportionment plans. The bill is awaiting House and Senate signatures before being sent to the

## [SB 939](#)



### **Children of Incarcerated Packet**

**[\(Click here to get detailed information.\)](#)**

*(Read the about activity on SB 939 in the [Social Policy report.](#))*

**Are you ready for "The Big One"?**

Use **[OPB's Aftershock](#)** website for the seismic intensity and preparation needed. **Put in your address and see the results.**

### **Legislative Bill Work Session Deadlines:**

*Moving toward Sine Die*

06/05 - Last day to hold work sessions for 2nd chamber.

**League Victory!**

**Governor Signs Firearms Safety Act, SB 941, into Law**

Governor. **[SB 331 A](#)**, the redistricting bill that calls for inmate residence information for purposes of apportionment of state legislative districts, has been amended for that purpose to assist the Department of Corrections and the Secretary of State. It is awaiting action in the Senate.

**UPDATE: SB 331 is scheduled for a Third Floor Reading June 3.**

**HB 2974 and SB 331** are supported by the [Redistricting Matters Coalition](#) in which the League is a member organization.

**[SB 492](#)**, which allows victims of sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence or harassment to recover using sick or vacation leave, has passed both houses and will be signed by the Governor.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Natural Resources**

### **Climate Stability, Aerial Pesticides, LWVOR named for seat on Blue Ribbon Committee**



*Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator*

**[HB 3470 A](#)**, the Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015, is still awaiting a Work Session in House Rules. **[Our Children's Trust](#)** ([www.ourchildrenstrust.org](http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org)) has issued this Alert: **"Join us on**

**June 2 or June 15 at the State House in Salem. Together, we will walk the halls and meet with legislators to encourage their support.** On June 2, we will leave them with a pledge of support that we will return to pick up on June 15. We hope that all adults will be able to bring one student with them, or better yet, bring the whole family. On both days, we will meet on the State House steps at 10:00 a.m. Click here to **[RSVP.](#)**"

League members are encouraged to ask NGOs and businesses with whom they have a working relationship to officially support HB 3470 "Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015" in order to show broad community support statewide. You can still send testimony directly to the House Rules Committee at: **[hrules.exhibits@state.or.us](mailto:hrules.exhibits@state.or.us)**.

*This landmark legislation was made possible through the passion and hard work of gun safety advocates.*

*The League's Action member, Marge Easley, is one who, with other volunteers and alliances helped make SB 941 law.*

**[Read Marge Easley's, LWVOR Action Team Member, testimony given during the marathon hearing on this bill.](#)**

## Over 250 policy bills have been sent to Ways & Means



## Support the Action Committee!



Please show your appreciation of the Action Committee and the Legislative Administrator by making a donation to [LWVOR](#)

It is your support that makes it possible to carry out this advocacy work at the Legislature



Thanks to all League members and local Leagues who have sent testimony to House Rules in support of [HB 3470](#). We are building that momentum and hope to see a positive finish line!

[HB 3549](#), related to aerial spray in forestry management areas, is still sitting in House Rules. There are new amendments ([read the -5 amendments here](#)) proposed. The next scheduled Work Session is June 3. We continue to advocate for **Policy Option Package 151** in the Department of Forestry budget ([HB 5019](#)) to increase public notification to nearby residents for a variety of forest operations.

The first major natural resource agency budget bill has passed its Ways and Means Subcommittee. The Dept. of Environmental Quality Budget bill ([HB 5018](#)) contains monies for many of the packages we supported in our letter of March 25. ([Click here to read LWVOR's Natural Resources Coordinator's, Peggy Lynch's, letter.](#)) Staffing for data collection and storm water and wastewater permitting, air quality and materials management were included. A **budget** note was added to direct the agency to hire a consultant to review permit processing to see if there can be efficiencies in the system to reduce costs and increase processing time while addressing protection of the environment. **The League has a seat on the Blue Ribbon Committee mentioned in the note.** (Click here to read [budget note](#).)

Monday, June 1, the Subcommittee considered the Water Resources Department budget ([HB 5042](#)). We provided testimony on April 9th. ([Click here to read the testimony.](#)) The staff recommendations include many of our requests, including staffing for place-based water planning and additional staff to address groundwater issues. League members should watch for opportunities to be involved with this basin-wide community water planning in the future. ([Click here to read Work Session recommendations.](#))

The League testified on [HB 3315 A](#) in the **Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee**, a bill that would require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to do time management studies and "bill" other agencies for the work required of their scientists on a variety of permits. [HB 2171](#), the Oregon Self Determination, Community and Wild Bird Investment Act, has proposed amendments and is actively being considered to provide \$2-4 million in revenue to help fund conservation measures around the sage grouse and other Oregon wild birds. The revenue would come from a 5-cent per pound tax on



Volunteer to work on issues for  
the 2015 Legislative Session  
It's exciting!

Contact the  
[LWVOR Action Team](#)

## State Bonding Capacity

For the 2015-17 biennium, the maximum recommended General Fund capacity is \$974 million and lottery bonding capacity is \$161 million. Both are less than the requests. Although our bond rating is AA+, factors that affect our rating include the Kicker Law, the volatility of our personal income tax and our active initiative process. Capital Construction informational hearing was held March 20th.

Information on bond financing: [State Bond Financing in Oregon](#) from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

[Overview of the 2015 Debt Policy Advisory Commission Report](#)

*[LWVOR Battle Front!  
Read the Issues on  
Social Policy,  
Governance and Natural  
Resources as  
captured by our LWVOR  
Coodinators.](#)*

*[Another Victory for  
Firearms Safety](#)*

bird seed. [HB 2402](#) would create a Task Force to study alternative funding for ODFW. We continue to work to resolve issues surrounding this important agency's budget.

The Elliott State Forest will be a topic of discussion, and maybe even action, on proposals to be unveiled at the **State Land Board meeting on June 9**.

[HB 3212](#) has a "relating to land use" clause that could make it a vehicle for "gutting and stuffing" the contents of [SB 25](#) or [SB 716](#), both bills we thought were dead for the session. The contents of either would violate the tenets of our award-winning land use planning program. [HB 3212](#) is scheduled for a public hearing and possible work session in the **Senate Business and Transportation Committee on June 3rd**.

We are still watching [HB 2666](#), an aggregate bill we oppose. It is sitting in House Rules and no hearings are currently scheduled. The aggregate industry is looking for a way to pass the bill or get the "safe harbor" provision folded into another bill.

**Bills in Ways and Means we SUPPORT:** SB 246A- onsite septic loan program, [SB 266A](#)-place-based water planning, [HB 2633A](#)-natural hazards planning, [SB 830A](#)-suction dredge mining, [SB 952A](#)-task force on natural resource agencies (both funding and efficiencies). With each of these bills, the Ways and Means Committee will need to weigh these requests for funding and their policies against current programs and funding needs.

**Bills in Ways and Means we OPPOSE:** [HB 3089A](#)-relating to mining. With the legislature increasing its funding to help manage the sage grouse and stop it from being listed under the Endangered Species Act, it seems silly to encourage mining in the heart of their habitat.

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator; Claudia Keith, Climate Change Portfolio; Jennifer Haynes, Forests and Pesticides Portfolios; Marge Easley, Land Use and Aggregate/Mining Portfolio

[Back to Top](#)

[Social Policy](#)

***In a bipartisan effort SB 525B passes the Senate to keep guns away from domestic violence offenders.***

### Quick Links to OLIS

[OR State Legislature](#)

[Legislative Audio and Video](#)

[View the Bills](#)

[Find & Contact your State Senator and Representative](#)

Read Peter Wong's Portland Tribune Article: [State Revenue Forecast: Kicker on the way](#)  
Get the reactions from Governor Brown and Others

Read the Office of Economic Analysis [May 14 Revenue Forecast](#)



**LWVOR UPDATES**  
**HEALTH CARE PAYER STATEMENT (click here)**

### Visit the Capitol!

Feel the history.  
Learn about the legislators and staff.



## Criminal Justice Commission, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Youth, Health Care and More



*Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator*

The Budget for the **Criminal Justice Commission, SB 5506**, had a work session on

June 1. The Justice

Reinvestment Project

was funded with \$35 million for Community Corrections and \$15 for Specialty Courts. Thank you to the League members who contacted legislators in support. The original request was for \$58 million in the Governor's Budget and the co-chairs had allocated \$20, so there was a compromise.

Advocates would still like to have the amount increased and hope that the bill at the end of the session might include another allocation.

One unresolved bill is the [SB 939 A](#), for the Department of Corrections to contract with nonprofits for a program for children of incarcerated parents. League members have supported the program at Coffee Creek and it could be offered at other prisons. [SB 232](#) allows the Department of Corrections to apply for grants, and the bill passed both the Senate unanimously and the House with 55 ayes. The Governor has signed the bill. But **SB 939 A sits in Ways and Means with no action yet.** [Click here to read: SB 939 Children of Incarcerated Parents packet](#) for more details. ([LWVOR Testimony on SB 939](#).) ([Read the LWV of Clackamas County testimony in support of Department of Corrections reentry efforts](#).)

[HB 3503 A](#) for the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program, passed the House Judiciary Committee on 4-20 and was sent to Ways and Means for funding. Negotiations for pilot programs have been discussed, but the bill has not yet been scheduled in Ways and Means. The League encourages members to call or e-mail their legislators to support these services to deter or reduce recidivism or sentences in prison. Another alert is submitted.

**Health Care Bills:** [HB 2879 A](#), which grants women direct access to prescription contraceptives from pharmacists, was passed in House Rules on May 27. The committee vote was 7 ayes with two excused. The bill was sent to the House floor for a vote. An earlier bill, [HB 3343 A](#), extended prescriptions for contraceptives from 3 months to 12 months. The bill passed the House Health Care Committee with 6 ayes

**The 2015 Legislative Guides are available in Room 59 for only \$3.00.**

**The Guides provide pictures and information about each legislators, as well as information about Committee Staff.**

### League Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon](#)

[LWV of the US](#)

**Join Our Mailing List**

**LWV Testimony**



Follow Us



Like Us

and 3 nays. The House floor passed the bill with 55 ayes. Insurance companies objected. Planned Parenthood supported the contraception prescription bill and noted that unintended pregnancies can cost \$17,000 each child. The Senate Health Care Committee heard [HB 3343 A](#) on May 27 and passed it to the Senate floor. Read next week to find out if both bills passed before the deadline.

**Human Services Bills:** The anti-poverty bills [HB 2015 A](#) for Employment Related Day Care and [HB 3535 A](#) for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Redesign were sent to the Ways and Means Committee, and haven't been considered yet. [HB 2394 A](#) to report lottery winnings of \$1,250 to the Department of Human Services has passed the House floor with 60 ayes and the Senate floor with 30 ayes. [HB 2599 B](#) on utility shutoffs for non-payment has passed the House with 41 ayes and 19 nays and **passed the Senate** with 24 ayes and 6 nays. The bill may be reconsidered by the House.

[HB 2232 Enrolled](#), the bill to appoint an Advisory Committee for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs, passed the House 57 to 3 excused and the Senate 26 ayes to 2 nays. The bill has been signed by the Governor. **Yeah! The committee is already meeting and will report before the next session.**

[HB 2825 A](#) on housing for the homeless and mentally ill was **passed by 9 ayes in the House Human Services committee and sits in Ways and Means.** Link to letter. [HB 3420](#) on Housing First Projects was passed to House Rules without recommendation and has not been scheduled. [HB 2564 A](#) on inclusionary zoning for affordable housing has passed the House 34 ayes to 25 nays and is scheduled for a work session on June 2 in the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee.

[Back to top](#)

## Social Policy - Early Childhood Education

### Early Learning Legislation

[SB 215 -3 amendments](#) was adopted by Senate Committee on Rules this past week and will move to the Senate floor with a do pass recommendation. The new **Oregon Education Office (OEO)** would replace the



Chris Vogel, Early Education Portfolio

"OEIB" and focus on strengthening equity while making recommendations on how education entities may best coordinate transition points P-20 (prenatal to higher education). The "board" and "rule making" authority of the OEIB will be eliminated, but the sunset is extended to 2019. Anticipate more on the OEO in the interim 2016 legislative session. The Chief Education Officer will continue to coordinate a seamless education system. The CEO is limited to design and organization of multi-agency planning.

**[SB 217](#)** contains strategic investments for early reading, aspirations and work programs. The bill includes the goals of increasing students getting free lunch, reducing truancy among underserved students, and increasing students earning General Equivalency Diplomas. The **[-2 amendments](#)** were adopted and the bill was referred to Ways and Means.

**[SB 214](#)**: Age Three to Grade Three initiatives under the Oregon Department of Education is in Ways and Means. Funding is linked through **[HB 5016](#)**.

**[HB 5016](#)**, containing funding for **[Early Learning Investments](#)**, and **[Child Care Programs](#)** and **[Early Learning Hubs](#)**, remains in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education. Many other Department of Education requests (outside of K-12) are also included in this bill and competing for very limited funds.

[Back to top](#)

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe™**

This email was sent to lwvor@lwvor.org by [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



League of Women Voters of Oregon | 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200 | Salem | OR | 97302